

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08958 241443Z

53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00

FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FRB-03 IO-14 OIC-04 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 AS-01

/247 W

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R 241113Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6142

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 08958 241443Z

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, NI

SUBJECT: OPEC: NIGERIA TRYING TO NAME SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: VIENNA 8146

1. EMBOFF ASKED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES LOLOMARI (WHO MOST OFTEN REPRESENTS NIGERIA AT OPEC MEETINGS) ON AUGUST 13 ABOUT THE OPEC SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. LOLOMARI SAID FMG FULLY INTENDED TO FILL THE POSITION AND WAS SEARCHING FOR A SUITABLE CANDIDATE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINAL SELECTION LAY WITH THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, NOT THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER.

2. COMMENT. WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE NIGERIANS FAIL TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO NAME THE NEXT SECRETARY GENERAL. TO DEFER WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE NIGERIANS' SENSE OR THEIR GROWING IMPORTANCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND OPEC IN PARTICULAR. THIS IS NOT TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT NIGERIA WILL NECESSARILY PRODUCE THE IDEAL CANDIDATE OR ACT IN TIME FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FROM DR. KHENE. NIGERIA HAS CAPABLE CIVIL SERVANTS AND DIPLOMATS IN ABUNDANCE, BUT THERE ARE EXTREMELY FEW WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE FIELD OF PETROLEUM AND HAVE ALSO GAINED SOME STANDING AMONG THE OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES. IF THE EMBASSY HAD TO GUESS WHO IT MIGHT BE? WE WOULD PROBABLY PICK ONE OF A HALF DOZEN OIL OFFICIALS WHOSE CONTINUATION IN LAGOS SEEMED LEAST REQUIRED AT THE MOMENT. HOWEVER, AS SEPARATELY REPORTED, MAJOR SHIFTS IN PERSONNEL AND IN NIGERIAN POLITICS MAY STEM FROM THE CHIEF OF STATE'S NATIONAL DAY SPEECH ON OCTOBER 1, AND THE QUESTION OF THE OPEC SECRETARY GENERALSHIP WILL PROBABLY NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL THESE CHANGES HAVE HAD TIME TO SIFT DOWN THROUGH THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES.
REINHARDT

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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